

Regional Council Activity Report

July 8, 1998



Briefing to Member Agencies from Executive Director, James M. Bourey

Executive Director's Report

June was a very busy and highly productive month. The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) sponsored two major events, the Citizens' Summit for Valley Vision 2025 and the First Annual Desert Peaks Awards Banquet. The Regional Council also elected new officers. In addition, a new six year public works bill which provides increased funding for highways, bridges and mass transit was signed into law.

On June 6, 1998, MAG held a Citizens' Summit at the Orpheum Theater to solicit input on the future direction for our region. The Citizens' Summit for Valley Vision 2025 included a regional scan to review major issues of importance to the future of the region and a future preferences survey taken by summit attendees. The survey was conducted using electronic keypads and the results were reported to the group instantaneously. Regional Scan presentations can be viewed on-line at: www.mag.maricopa.gov/vv2025

On June 24, 1998, we held our first annual Desert Peaks Awards banquet to recognize individuals, member agencies and businesses who made significant contributions to the region. The following awards were presented:

- ♦ **Distinguished Service** — Mayor Elaine Scruggs of Glendale for her work in accelerating freeway construction, protecting Luke Air Force Base and implementing standardized youth curfews. Gerald Abmont, of the Heatherbrae Neighborhood Association, and Xavier Brizar of Pioneer Ford, for spearheading efforts to eradicate graffiti; and Sara Moya, former Councilmember of Paradise Valley, for her contributions to providing human services, addressing problems of the homeless and for leadership in addressing issues of regional growth and development.
- ♦ **Regional Excellence** — Mayor Mark Schnepf, Town of Queen Creek, for his outstanding collaborative efforts in rural development projects including the conversion of Williams Air Force Base to a civilian airport.
- ♦ **Regional Partnership** — The Town of Fountain Hills, Maricopa County and the City of Scottsdale for McDowell Mountain Preservation, an

effort to plan and implement the creation of regional public outdoor destinations through the preservation of the McDowell Mountains and surrounding desert.

- ♦ **Public/Private Partnership** — Papago Salado, sponsored by the Papago Salado Association and the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe, to preserve, enhance and promote the Papago Park and Rio Salado region. The West Valley Fine Arts Project, sponsored by Avondale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Tolleson and Buckeye with the West Valley Fine Arts Council to establish a varied program of arts activities in the area.
- ♦ **MAG Employee of the Year** — Audrey Evans, Office Services Supervisor, was singled out for her extraordinary work, commitment to the regional mission and contribution to the accomplishment of the MAG work program.

More information and on-line presentations of the Desert Peaks Awards is available in the News and Events section of our website: www.mag.maricopa.gov



Regional Council Meeting Report June 24, 1998

Election of Officers

The MAG Regional Council approved the recommendation of the nominating committee and elected the following officers: **Chairman**, Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe; **Vice Chairman**, Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix; **Treasurer**, Mayor John Keegan, Peoria; **At-Large Member**, Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler; and **Past Chairman**, Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale.

For more information, contact James M. Bourey, Executive Director, 254-6300.

Requested Changes to the MAG Freeway Program

The MAG Regional Council approved material changes to the Draft Tentative 1999-2006 Life Cycle Regional Freeway Program requested by the Arizona Department of Transportation. The additional projects are needed to complete utility relocation work on the Agua Fria and Pima Freeways, and for the drainage project on the San Tan Freeway. As a result of advanced design work, significant cost changes were made for segments in the Agua Fria Corridor.

For more information, contact Eric Anderson, MAG Freeway Program Manager, 470-1107.

Articles of Incorporation to Establish the Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center as a Subsidiary of MAG

The MAG Regional Council approved the Articles of Incorporation establishing the Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center (MAGIC) as a subsidiary of MAG. Through this subsidiary, specialized information and services to member agencies, private sector businesses and individuals and other public sector agencies will be provided. The resources and activities associated with MAGIC will be administered by the Executive Director of the Maricopa Association of Governments. The governing board of the enterprise will be the Regional Council Executive Committee. For more information, contact Rita Walton, Policy and Information Manager, 254-6300.

MAG Annual Financial Audit, Single Audit and Management Letter for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1997

The Regional Council accepted the Annual Financial Audit and Single Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1997, prepared by Deloitte & Touche LLP. The annual financial audit reported that MAG was in compliance with the requirements applicable to major federal award programs. The single audit indicated that there were no reportable conditions in the agency's internal control over financial reporting considered to be material weaknesses, no instances of noncompliance considered to be material and no questioned costs. During FY 1998, MAG has either resolved, or is in the process of addressing, each of the findings. For more information, contact Art Rullo, Fiscal Services Manager, 254-6300.

Overview of Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

On June 9, 1998, the President signed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). This six year public works bill reauthorizes the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and provides about \$217 billion for the nation's highways, bridges and mass transit systems. The bill preserves the role for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and local decision-making in planning and programming funds for metropolitan areas. Based upon initial information released from the Federal Highway Administration, Arizona's annual average share of transportation spending will increase from \$256 million to \$403 million, a 57 percent increase. For more information, contact John Farry, Transportation Planning Program Manager, 254-6300.



Upcoming Issues

Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee

At the June 24, 1998 MAG Desert Peaks Award Banquet, Mayor Neil Giuliano, Chairman of the MAG Regional Council, announced the appointment of Mayor Wayne Brown of Mesa as Chairman of the Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide an expanded focus on transportation issues, priorities and funding. For more information, contact James M. Bourey, Executive Director, 254-6300.

Projects to Close-Out Fiscal Year 1998

The recently passed TEA 21 contains a funding allocation for FY 1998. On June 23, 1998, the MAG Transportation Review Committee identified projects for closing out the fiscal year. These projects will be considered by the Management Committee and Regional Council this month. For more information, contact John Farry, Transportation Planning Program Manager, 254-6300.

Subregional allocation of TEA 21 funding within Arizona

It is estimated that TEA 21 will provide \$403 million annually over the next six years for transportation spending in Arizona. The subregional allocation of these funds will need to be determined. The recent certification of the MAG planning process by FHWA included a request that the Arizona Department of Transportation provide MAG with an estimate of the funding to be received for all funding programs. While the increased funding to Arizona will be significant under TEA 21, there is concern that the amount returned to this region will not be proportional to the increases. MAG will be partnering with the Arizona Department of Transportation to ensure that we receive our fair share of funding. For more information, contact John Farry, Transportation Planning Program Manager, 254-6300.

Submittal of Application to Update the MAG Regional Aviation System Plan

MAG has submitted an application to the Federal Aviation Administration for the first phase for the update of its Regional Aviation System Plan. The purpose of the Update is to meet the long-term air transportation needs of the region through the construction of airport improvements and the establishment of

aviation policies. The existing plan was adopted in December 1993, and a follow-up study to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations was adopted in December 1996. The update is needed because changing conditions in the region over the past several years requires a reevaluation and reappraisal of both recommended airport improvements and policy measures. For more information, contact Harry P. Wolfe, Aviation and Socioeconomic Program Manager, 254-6300.

Certification of MAG Planning Process

The United States Department of Transportation has certified the Maricopa Association of Governments planning process. This certification is performed every three years by the United States Department of Transportation. The final certification report from the DOT complimented MAG for its new work program and requested that the Arizona Department of Transportation provide MAG with a funding estimate for all transportation programs. For more information, contact John Farry, Transportation Planning Program Manager, 254-6300.

Expansion of Southwest Passage Corridor Designation for Federal Funding under TEA 21

Section 1118 of TEA 21 makes federal funds available for planning and construction in transportation corridors of national significance. Representatives of the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and the Councils of Governments within those states have been conferring for over a year to develop an integrated and comprehensive trade/transportation strategy for the East-West trade corridor, named the Southwest Passage. The objective of the Southwest Passage is to connect the East-West trade routes along the U.S./Mexico border with a seamless freight transportation system extending from Los Angeles to Houston, Texas.

To date the only portion of the corridor that has been identified for funding in TEA 21 is that section extending from Los Angeles along I-10 and San Diego along I-8 to the Arizona border. However, there are provisions in the TEA 21 legislation for designating additional corridors. On June 23, 1998, the Transportation Review Committee recommended that the Management Committee support the expansion of the Southwest Passage corridor to include the portion running through Arizona to Houston, Texas for funding as a high priority corridor in TEA 21.

For more information, contact Harry P. Wolfe, Program Manager, 254-6300.



Information Items

Status Report on Census 2000

The Bureau of the Census is providing opportunities for local governments to partner with the Federal government to prepare for Census 2000. The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program offers local governments an opportunity to review and update the address file that will be used to distribute questionnaires for Census 2000. With each housing unit counted worth about \$10,000 in federal and state funds to local governments in the decade after the Census, it is crucial that member agencies commit adequate staff resources to the review of these files. According to the Census Bureau, the addresses are anticipated to be distributed sometime this month. Upon receipt, local jurisdictions will have about 90 days to update the file.

The Statistical Areas Program provides local governments with an opportunity to recommend changes to the census geography by which the results of the Census will be reported. These include census tracts, block groups and census designated places.

MAG has become increasingly concerned with continued delays in both the LUCA and Statistical Area Program and logistical problems with census preparations. These concerns were detailed in a letter from James M. Bourey to the Chairman of the Census 2000 Advisory Committee, which was distributed to all committee members. The MAG Executive Director, James M. Bourey, serves on that committee as a representative of the International City/County Management Association.

For more information, contact Harry P. Wolfe, Aviation and Socioeconomic Program Manager, 254-6300.



Upcoming Events

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 1998. The main topics on the agenda are expected to include: TEA 21 Funding for FY 1998 and recommended projects for closing out the year; suballocation of TEA 21 funding within Arizona; and expansion of Southwest Passage corridor as a high priority corridor for funding under TEA 21

For more information, contact James M. Bourey, Executive Director, 254-6300.